



CRAIG COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 828

Craig, Alaska 99921

Phone: 907-826-3996

Fax: 907-826-3997

Email: cgtribe@aptalaska.net

February 13, 2004

State of Alaska
Department of Transportation & Public Facilities
Division of Program Development
ATTN: Mr. Jeff Ottesen, Director
3132 Channel Drive
Juneau, Alaska 99801-6984

RE: Non-Metropolitan Local Official Consultation Process

Dear Mr. Ottesen,

On behalf of the Craig Community Association and the Organized Village of Kasaan I would like to submit comments to the proposed Non-Metropolitan Local Officials Consultation Process. The Craig Community Association and the Organized Village of Kasaan are a Federally recognized Tribal Governments within their Communities and are continuously striving to improve the Health, Safety, Social, and Economic well being of its Tribal Citizens.

In the proposed process for consultation it states that DOT&PF will review and consider resolutions, plans, and project priorities of local governments presented to DOT&PF.

Once these are submitted what kind of weigh measures is DOT&PF going to use to determine if these projects are important enough to be on the STP or STIP?

Local Officials in Non-Metropolitan Areas within the State of Alaska is quit huge. Other than the Greater Anchorage, Fairbanks, and a couple more identified Metropolitan areas there will be a lot of consultation going on. Does the consultation come out of the funds the State gets from FHWA for Transportation?

There is a NEEDS LIST within DOT&PF for Communities that have identified a need for projects within their Communities either for upgrades, health, safety, social, or economics within their respective communities. However, Routes usually develop the STIP and STP or Roads that have large average daily traffic (ADT'S), Vehicle miles traveled (VMT), and a supportable Population base within. Therefore, even if communities outside Metropolitan Areas identify a priority project within their

communities the possibilities of these projects becoming reality is Very Slim. Unless, the communities seek “earmarks” or their projects are Politically Motivated.

I feel there is a great need for consultation in Non-Metropolitan Areas. This also should be used as way of getting some Rural Projects elevated off the NEEDS LIST and onto the STP or the STIP since the Rural Projects the way the system is set up now can’t compete with the Metropolitan Areas for Projects.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment. Should you have any questions don’t hesitate to contact me either in Craig at (907)826-3998, In Kasaan at (907)542-2230 or 2091864 cell.

Sincerely,

Sam Thomas; Transportation Planner
Craig Community Association /
Organized Village of Kasaan